Elephant Census

3298. DR. JAYANTA RONGPI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have recently conducted a census of elephants in Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether elephant population has grown out of proportion causing an ecological imbalance; and

(d) if so, the action the Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

More Schools in Private Sector

3299. SHRI P. C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the CBSE propose to allow more schools in private sector in rural areas of the country;

(b) whether such schools are also to be allowed in private sector in different parts of Kerala with facilities up to XII standard; and

(c) whether some requests of Kerala Government are also pending with the Union Government in this regard and if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) and (b) CBSE has no objection if more schools in private sector in rural areas in the country including Kerala are opened which satisfy the Affiliation Bye-Laws of the Board.

(c) At present, no representation from Kerala Government regarding affiliation of schools to the CBSE is pending with the Union Government.

Assistance to Hospitals in Cooperative Sector

3300. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government provide assistance to hospitals in the cooperatives sector;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government propose to extend assistance to cooperative hospital at Koothattukulam in Ernakulam district, Kerala; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARADEVI SIDDHARATHA) : (a) Financial Assistance is provided to the Voluntary Organisations registered under the Societies Registration Act of 1860 or any other statute, for purchase of equipments etc. for improvement of existing facilities or seting up new hospitals in rural areas under the grant-in-aid schemes.

(b) and (c) No application or assistance has been received from this hospital.